

REMARKS

On page 2 of the Action, the drawing was objected to. In view of the objection, the proposed drawing correction is filed, wherein numerals 46 and 47 are changed vice versa.

On page 2 of the Action, claims 2-6 were objected to. On page 3 of the Action, claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamada.

In view of the objection and rejection, claim 1 is amended to obviate the rejection, and claims 2 and 3 are cancelled. Claims 4-6 are amended to obviate the objection, and new claims 7-9 are filed.

As clearly recited in amended claim 1, a hook device for suspending an object includes a case member having a stopping portion, a hook main portion disposed in the case member to be rotatable between a store position and a use position, and having an elastic member, and an engaging portion provided at the elastic member of the hook main portion to engage the stopping portion so that the hook main portion is stopped at the use position with a predetermined open angle.

In the invention, at least one the stopping portion and the engaging portion has an inclined surface so that when a load is applied to the hook main portion in the use position in a direction such that the hook main portion further opens, the elastic member is urged in a direction that the stopping portion further engages the engaging portion to thereby prevent further opening of the hook main portion.

Namely, in the invention, when the hook main portion in the use position is urged to further open, the engaging portion further engages or bites the stopping portion to prevent further opening of the hook main portion.

In Yamada, a tray 9 is rotationally attached to a base plate 1 by a shaft 14 and has latch arms 11 engaging a leaf spring 7 (Fig.

4) or metal plate 30 (Fig. 8A) attached to the base plate 1. In Figs. 8A and 8B referred to by the Examiner, fork ends 11b can engage the metal plate 30 (Fig. 8A), but can pass through the hole 6a (Fig. 8B).

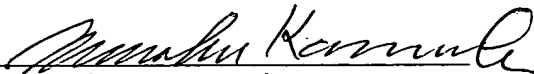
In the invention, the inclined surface is formed at at least one the stopping portion and the engaging portion. When a load is applied to the hook main portion in the use position to further open, the elastic member is urged in a direction that the stopping portion further engages the engaging portion to thereby prevent further opening of the hook main portion. Namely, the engaging portion does not disengage from the stopping portion. In Yamada, as clearly shown in Fig. 8B, the fork ends 11b are formed to pass through the hole 6a, i.e. disengage from the base plate 1. In this connection, the inclined surface of the invention is not disclosed in Yamada.

Therefore, the features of the invention as recited in claim 1 are not disclosed or even suggested in Yamada.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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